

In the Claims

1. (Original) A method of enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications, characterised by the step of;

transmitting from the first portion of a network two representations of an encoded signal, the encoded signal produced by a codec of the first portion of a network (hereinafter 'first codec'), the two representations respectively comprising;

- i. the encoded signal produced by the first codec (hereinafter 'first encoded signal'); and
- ii. a parameter translation of the first encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with a single common compressed voice codec (CCVC) format (hereinafter 'common encoded signal').

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and the second portion of a network suitable for voice communications are part of the same overall network.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising the step of;

transmitting the two representations of the encoded signal to the second portion of a network via a wired link.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the wired link is part of a public switched telephone network.

~~A method according to claim 3 wherein the wired link is part of a packet switched network.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein an identifier unique to the type of the first codec is also transmitted.

6. (Original) A method of enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications, characterised by the steps of;

receiving from the first portion of a network two representations of an encoded signal, the encoded signal produced by a codec of the first portion of a network (hereinafter 'first codec'), the two representations respectively comprising;

- i. the encoded signal produced by the first codec (hereinafter 'first encoded signal'); and
- ii. a parameter translation of the first encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with a single common compressed voice codec (CCVC) format (hereinafter 'common encoded signal'); and determining whether the first codec is compatible with a codec of the second portion of a network (hereinafter 'second codec').

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the determination comprises comparing a unique codec type identifier also received from the first portion of a network with a unique codec type identifier for the second codec.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 and 7~~ wherein if the first and second codecs are determined to be compatible, then the first encoded signal is selected for further transmission by the second portion of the network.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 and 7~~ wherein if the first and second codecs are determined not to be compatible, then a parameter translation of the common encoded signal into an encoded signal compatible with the second codec (hereinafter 'second encoded signal') is performed.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the second encoded signal is then selected for further transmission by the second portion of the network.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for enhanced tandem communication between at least a first portion of a network suitable for voice communications and a second portion of a network suitable for voice communications according to a method as claimed in claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, and comprising;

translation means for translating a common encoded signal into second encoded signal.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)